FLOWER COMICS

蒼の封印 10

Chie Shinohara

篠原千絵

少コミ フラワーコミックス

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小学館

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●作品紹介

白虎本来の能力を得た彩は、襲ってきた高雄や緋子たちを追い詰める。しかし、その能力により苦しむ蒼子に気をとられ、彩は高雄と緋子を取り逃がしてしまい…。

少コミ フラワーコミックス

蒼の封印
Ao no Fuuin
10
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The Story so Far...

Ever since the day Soko transferred schools, strange things have been happening and a mystery man has been following her around. That man introduces himself as Akira, the "Byakko of the Family of the West", and says it's his duty to kill Soko, who's "Souryu of the Family of the East".

The Family of the West was originally part of the Kimon. However, they betrayed the Kimon, sided with humans, and hunted Oni. Soko knows that she's queen of the Kimon, but her and Akira fell in love. She's begun fighting the Kimon with the Family of the West in order to become a normal human being.

However, Takao, who desires the restoration of the Kimon, got a hold of Soko. By using mind control, he was able to use her powers and create a large number of Oni. The Family of the West rescued Soko, and now she's even more determined to bring about the downfall of the Kimon.

During their fight, the secret was revealed that each of the four Kimon families has a refuge, and that should the head of the Family of the West, South, or North go to their refuge, they will gain their true power. However, if the Family of the East's refuge is blocked off, the Kimon would be ruined.

And so the Family of the West put all their effort into locating the Family of the East's refuge. Akira and the rest then discovered that Hiko was trying to obtain the power of the Family of the South's "Suzaku", which is to administer punishment on the Kimon. Because the refuge that Akira and Soko discovered in Hara belonged to the Family of the West, Akira gained the power of the "Byakko". His power is a strong weapon in the fight against the Oni, but it also targeted Soko.

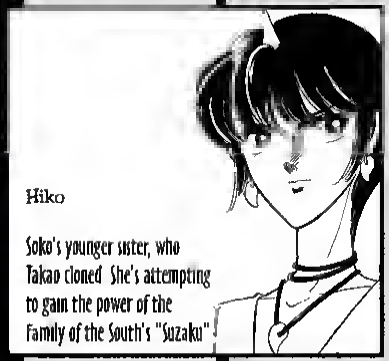
Characters

Takao (Family of the North's "Genbu")

Conspires to use Soko's power to resurrect the Kimon.

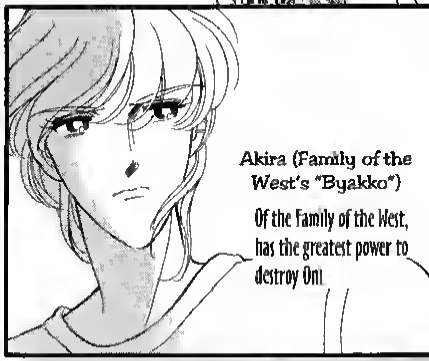
Soko Kiryu (Family of the East's "Souryu")

Chief of the man-eating "Kimon", the rebirth of Rago. She loves Akira and wants to live the life of a normal high school girl.



Hiko

Soko's younger sister, who Takao cloned. She's attempting to gain the power of the Family of the South's "Suzaku".



Akira (Family of the West's "Byakko")

Of the Family of the West, has the greatest power to destroy Oni.

MY MIND IS MELTING...
IS THIS
IT FEELS LIKE MY ORGANS ARE LIQUEFYING INTO MUSH
IS THIS WHAT BEING EATEN IS LIKE?!

AKIRA... DON'T! DON'T STOP!
SOKO!!
TAKAO AND HIKO WILL GET AWAY!
FWISH

AKIRA! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
SNAP
THE TRAITOR'S POWER!
SO THE TRUE POWER OF THE "BYAKKO" HAS BEEN RESTORED!?

AKIRA!
HIT THEM ONCE MORE...
I CAN'T! IT'LL AFFECT SOKO TOO!
AKIRA! CAN'T YOU THROW FIRE AT THEM?!
EH?
TAKAO AND I CAN THROW FIRE!
WHICH MEANS...!
...GOT IT!
FIRE

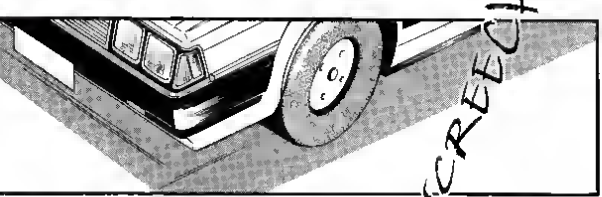
FWIP
CRUMBLE
GYAAAHHH!

I'VE GOT IT!
WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED THE POWER TO FACE TAKAO!
THINK YOU CAN RUN, TAKAO!
THE POWER TO HUNT DOWN ANY ONI NO MATTER WHO IT IS!
HUFF
HUFF

CHAMBLE
FLARE
YOU'RE IN MY WAY! MOVE IT!
AH!
IN...CREDIBLE...
TAKAO!
THIS IS FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE!
FLARE

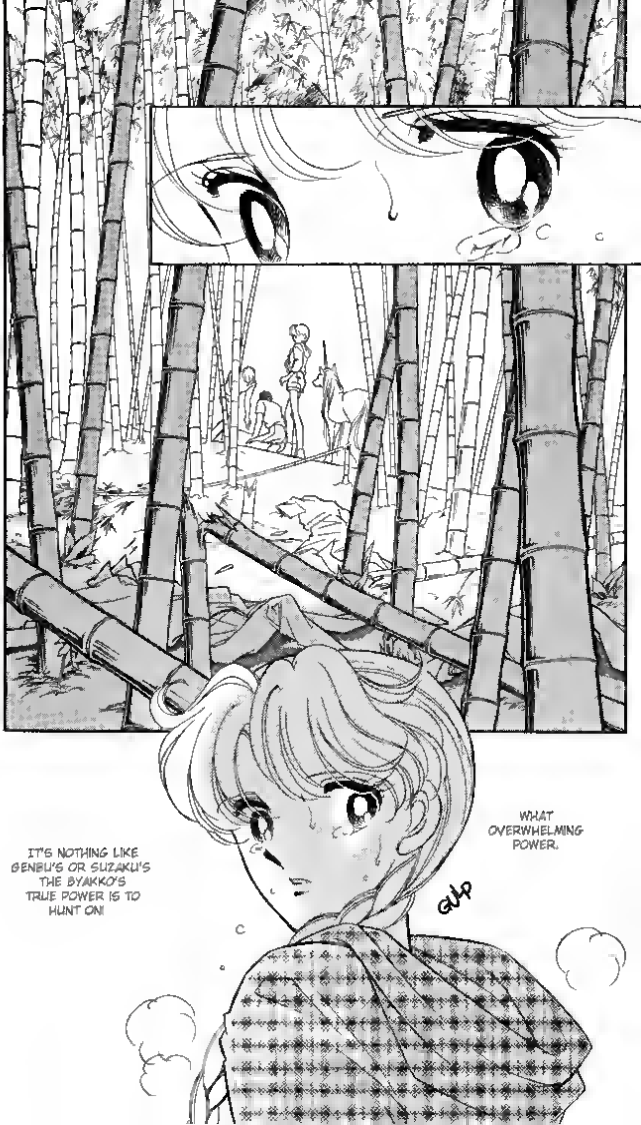
FLARE
CRUMBLE
GAH!
FLARE
FLARE
FLARE
AH!
"GENBU'S" BLACK FLAMES!
IF THOSE CATCH YOU HE CAN CONTROL YOU!

GRIP
.....
PERFECT. I'VE GOT A QUESTION FOR YOU
THE WHITE DEMON MASK?!


SCREECH

SCREECH
CLACK
LORD TAKAO! LADY HIKO!
AKIRA...!
FLARE
SLAM
WAIT, TAKAO!
BOOM

VROOM
THUD
DAMN IT!
SNAP
TAKAO!
AH!
THE WHITE-DEMON MASK?!
AKIRA, SOKO


IT'S NOTHING LIKE GENBU'S OR SUZAKU'S THE BYAKKO'S TRUE POWER IS TO HUNT ON!
WHAT OVERWHELMING POWER.
GULP

AKIRA
I'VE GOT IT
THE POWER TO HUNT DOWN THE ONI... TO HUNT DOWN TAKAO...
WE'LL FIND THE KIMON'S SACRED GROUND, THE FAMILY OF THE BAST'S REFUGE AND CLOSE IT OFF. THEN IT'S OVER

YEAH.
KAI
LET'S GET BACK TO TOKYO.
I'LL HAVE THE SAIONJI KANSAI OFFICE GET US SOME TICKETS ON THE BULLET TRAIN,
AND TAKE CARE OF THE CLEAN-UP HERE.
WHAT'S LEFT IS JUST SEALING OFF THE SACRED GROUND
WHEN WE DO THAT, I CAN BECOME HUMAN AND SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH AKIRA.

VROOOOM
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT POWER?!
WAS THAT THE "BYAKKO"?!
—I TOLD YOU WE DON'T NEED THE "SUZAKU'S" POWER
THERE YOU GO WITH THAT AGAIN, TAKAO...
THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S REFUGE IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT I'LL GAIN THE POWER OF THE "SUZAKU".
I'M GOING TO KYUSHU.

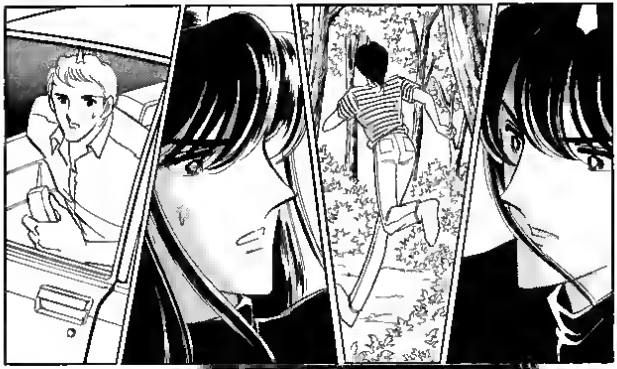
I GOT THAT OUT OF THE WHITE DEMON MASK BEFORE IT DIED.
HIKO?!
"SUZAKU" ADMINISTERS THE KIMON'S PUNISH-MENT.
?
...TAKAO, I KNOW ABOUT IT.
THAT THE GREATEST PUNISHMENT AMONG THE KIMON WAS TO LIVE ON ONLY AS A HEAD
TO LIVE LIKE THAT FOR ALL ETERNITY, WITH YOUR FEELINGS AND POWER INTACT.
IF I GAVE MY SISTER THAT PUNISHMENT, WE COULD FORCE HER TO BE "SOURYU!"

IF YOU LOVE HER, THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO BEFORE THE "BYAKKO" AND HER FELL FOR EACH OTHER?!
?!
THEY WHY DIDN'T YOU RESTRAIN HER?
I WON'T ALLOW THAT
THAT'S RIGHT IF YOU LOVE HER, THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE RESTRAINED HER!
THE "SOURYU" AND THE "GENBU". NO ONE COULD HAVE ARGUED AGAINST THAT PAIR!

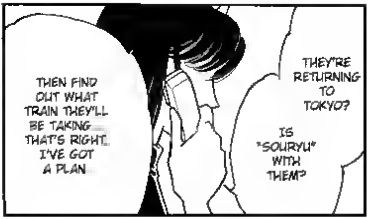
.....
NO ANSWER AGAIN?
WHATEVER, IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW...
IF YOU JUST HAD TO CATCH MY SISTER, THE KIMON WOULD ALREADY BE RULING THE HUMANS. NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, IT ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN
CLICK
HIKO?!
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?!
WHIRR

I'M GOING TO KYUSHU.
SINCE YOU WON'T DO IT, I'LL BECOME "SUZAKU" AND EXECUTE MY SISTER
SHE'LL FULFILL HER ROLE AS "SOURYU" FOR US FOR ALL ETERNITY!
HIKO!
JUMP
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO GO TO THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S REFUGE!
SCREECH
STOP THE CAR!

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
LORD TAKAO!
IT'S FROM THE ONES WHO ARE WATCHING THE BYAKKO!



CLACK



WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL MY SISTER YOU LOVE HER?!

"I LOVE SOKO"...
CRACK
FAMILY
IF I WERE ABLE TO SAY IT, I WOULD HAVE SAID IT A LONG TIME AGO!
LOVE...

8
TOKYO CONTACTED US.
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE NARROWED DOWN THE POSSIBLE SITES FOR THE FAMILY OF THE EAST'S REFUGE CONSIDERABLY
GOOD
I'VE GOT THIS POWER AND ONCE WE FIND OUT WHERE THE SACRED GROUND IS, WE'LL CLOSE IT OFF FOR SURE

—WH—
AND THEN—
ALL THE FIRST CLASS CARS WERE BOOKED FOR BUSINESS MEETINGS, BUT STILL—
We should've gotten a room for 2 instead of 3 and I should've taken a private jet home with Ou—
NOW THAT AKIRA HAS THAT POWER, IT'S US WHO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE
I KNOW I'M GETTING MY HOPES UP AGAIN BUT—
SHOCK
WHO'S THERE?!
CLATTER

WAAAH!
MOMMY!
MOMMY!
HIC
HIC
A CHILD...?!
I'M GOING TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR MOM, SO DON'T CRY
SOKO
DON'T WORRY. I'LL TAKE HER TO HER MOM AND COME RIGHT BACK
IS SHE LOST?
AH... KAI, I'LL DO IT
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE HER TO THE CONDUCTOR.

HOW CUTE
WHEN I'M LIVING WITH AKIRA, I WANT A CHILD LIKE THIS
UH... UM
NO IT WAS A REGULAR SEAT...
I SEE... SO MAMIKO, WERE YOU AND YOUR MOM IN A ROOM LIKE THIS?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MAMIKO
OH NO
WHAT AM I DOING THINKING I WANT A CHILD...
This isn't the place to be thinking of that!

LADY SOKO,
PLEASE COME BACK TO US
EH?
YOU'RE OUR CHIEF
PLEASE, COME BACK TO US.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GUIDE US AND RULE US, RIGHT?

LORD TAKAO TOLD ME
SMILE
MAMIKO ...? YOU'RE ...
.....
I HAD TO BRING YOU HOME.

A HORN!
HE SAID THE "BYAKKO" IS GOING TO SEAL OFF THE SACRED GROUND
IF THAT HAPPENS, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ALL THE BABIES THERE?
IF THEY LEAVE THE SACRED GROUND BEFORE THEY GET AS BIG AS ME THEY'LL DIE
LADY SOKO, YOU CAN'T SEAL THE SACRED GROUND OFF

SLIDE
ONI CHILDREN?
THIS GIRL IS AN ONI CHILD BORN IN THE SACRED GROUND?!

Ao no Fuuin by: Chie Shinohara

"Blue Seal"

SCANNER: LADYNAGISA
TRANSLATOR: KALENDEL
EDITOR: LADYNAGISA
QC: KALENDEL

STORM IN HEAVEN
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BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
I KNEW THERE WERE ONI CHILDREN OF COURSE
AND I'D HEARD THAT THEY CAN ONLY BE BORN ON THE [illegible] GROUND
BUT I'D NEVER ACTUALLY SEEN ONE!

W... WAIT!
YOU SAID YOU WERE BORN ON THE SACRED GROUND?!
IT'S ONLY BEEN A YEAR SINCE I WAS REBORN. THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE GROWN SO BIG SINCE THEN
YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH, LADY SOKO...
KIMON CHILDREN IN THE SACRED GROUND DON'T EVEN TAKE TWO MONTHS TO GROW AS BIG AS ME
SMILE
SOKO, ABOUT THAT GIRL, I REALLY SHOULD...
AH!
KAI!

SHE'S AN ONI?!
A HORN?!
THE ONI THAT I CREATED HAVE BEEN LIVING ON, AND I'VE BEEN IN THE DARK ABOUT THEM
WAIT!
DASH
OW! DAMN YOU!!
DON'T FIGHT ME!
BITE
SLAM
THUD
LET ME GO!
THEY'RE HAVING CHILDREN?!

AKIRA!
THIS IS THAT BRAT'S TRUE FORM!
THOSE TEARS BEFORE...
WERE JUST TO TRICK US!
AN ONI CHILD!?

THE SACRED GROUND?!
SHE SAID SHE WAS BORN ON THE SACRED GROUND, THOUGH...
YEAH, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS SENT TO BRING ME BACK.
.....
DID TAKAO SEND HER?
.....
EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD BE SIMPLE TO FORCE SOKO'S COMPLIANCE USING THE SUZAKU'S POWERS
EVEN NOW, TAKAO WANTS TO WIN SOKO BACK?

I'LL NEVER HAND SOKO OVER
BUT I WON'T LOSE TO THOSE FEELINGS
AND FOR THAT...
AKIRA?!
...TAKAO DID US A FAVOR BY SENDING SOMEONE SO HELPLESS
TAKAO
DO YOU LOVE SOKO THAT MUCH?!

AND FOR THAT, I'LL CLOSE OFF THE SACRED GROUND NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!
SINCE...
YOU WERE BORN AT THE SACRED GROUND, YOU KNOW ABOUT IT, DON'T YOU?
AH!
SO, COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE IT IS?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR IT FOR A LONG TIME
THAT'S RIGHT
IF SHE TELLS US, WE'LL KNOW WHERE THE SACRED GROUND IS...

THERE'S NO WAY I'LL TELL!
I WON'T SAY
IF I TOLD YOU, YOU'D BLOCK IT OFF.
GOT IT. SOKO, SWITCH PLACES WITH ME
KAI!
LOOKS LIKE TAKAO TRAINED YOU WELL
DOES HE WANT TO CONCEAL US FROM THE CORRIDOR?
IN FRONT OF THE DOOR?
LEAN
?!
AKIRA, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
GRAB

AHH!
JOLT
JOLT
AKIRA!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THAT CHILD...

RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHERE THE SACRED GROUND IS, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES
OMPH!
DON'T YELL
NOW,
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HURT ANYMORE, TELL ME WHERE THE SACRED GROUND IS
I WON'T TELL!
ZZSST
SHOT
AGH!!
THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T TALK

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
I WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE SACRED GROUND IS BUT...
SAVE... ME..
LADY .. SOKO...
BUT...
STOP IT, AKIRA!
THIS IS JUST TOO MUCH!
SHE'S ONLY A CHILD!

AND WOULD THE ONI LEAVE A HUMAN CHILD ALONE?
THEY ONLY SEE HUMANS AS FOOD—
THIS CHILD IS ONE OF THE KIMON THERE'S NO NEED FOR MERCY.
AKI..
OMPH!
TAKAO TOLD YOU DIDN'T HE? THE BYAKKO CAN EAT ON!—
IF YOU DON'T TELL ME, I'LL EAT YOU.
JOLT
SOKO, KEEP QUIET. IF PEOPLE NOTICE US WE'LL BE IN A WORLD OF TROUBLE
BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH!! STOP IT—
I'VE NO OBJECTION TO DESTROYING THE KIMON.

STOP IT...!!
I WON'T... TELL...
HUHU
HUHU
!!
EVEN IF... YOU EAT ME... EVEN IF YOU CHOP OFF MY HEAD... I WON'T... TELL...

FLOP
MAMIKO!
I DIDN'T KILL HER
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WON'T TALK THAT EASILY, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S JUST A CHILD
LET'S GET HER BACK TO THE SAIONJI FOR NOW
...AKIRA,
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE CAPABLE OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

I'M THE BYAKKO, I HUNT ONI
...THEN WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
EVEN IF THEY'RE A BABY OR A CHILD, IF THEY'RE ONI I'LL HUNT THEM WITHOUT MERCY
WHAT DID YOU THINK IT WAS?!
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO DESTROY I'M HUNTING ONI

HUNT THEM...
EVEN A BABY OR A CHILD WITHOUT MERCY
KAI,
INFORM MY UNCLE THAT WE'VE OBTAINED AN ONI CHILD.
SURE
I KNEW THAT—
I KNEW THAT, BUT...

SHOCK
KAI!
THAT'S ONE WAY TO TORTURE THEM.
EVEN IF YOU CUT OFF AN ONI'S LIMBS THEY WON'T DIE
I'LL GO REPORT.
...I WAS KIDDING!
...WE WON'T DO THAT. NO MATTER HOW FAR IT GOES WE WON'T DO THAT.
CLACK

TOKYO, TOKYO
TRANSFER TO CHUO LINE !
GOT IT
LET'S GO, SOKO
THE CAR OVER THERE WILL TAKE US TO YAESU CENTRAL
"EVEN IF YOU CUT OFF AN ONI'S LIMBS, THEY WON'T DIE."
...AKIRA WILL DO IT.
NO... IF IT'S NECESSARY, THE BYAKKO WILL HAVE TO DO IT.

AH!
GRAB
GEEZ WHAT'S UP WITH THE STATION BEING SO CROWDED?
I'M SORRY, AKIRA
I'M TAKING HER BACK HOME!
SOKO!

TCH!
SOKO!
I'M SORRY.
I'LL GIVE HER TO HER PARENTS AND COME RIGHT BACK
WE'RE SO CLOSE TO SEALING OFF THE SACRED GROUND AND BEING DONE WITH IT!
BANG
YOU IDIOT!
GOT IT!
KAI!
WE CAN'T LET THE KIMON HAVE SOKO NOW! LOOK FOR HER!

TAKAO MUST BE DESPERATE
HE'S IN LOVE WITH SOKO, RIGHT?
...NO, HE WON'T DO THAT
I'M WORRIED THAT HE MIGHT TAKE HER BY FORCE AND KEEP HER LOCKED UP.
IF THAT WAS HIS PLAN HE'S HAD PLENTY OF CHANCES BEFORE NOW...
IT'S MORE THAT HE'S BEEN DESPERATELY HIDING HIS FEELINGS
.....

WHETHER OR NOT SHE'D LET HERSELF BE SWAYED BY THEM...
!!
IS IF TAKAO REVEALS THOSE FEELINGS
EH?
WHAT WORRIES ME...
TAKAO MUST HAVE SEEN THAT AND USED THAT CHILD!
...EXACTLY. EVEN THOUGH SHE'S THE CHIEF OF THE KIMON, SHE'S VERY HUMAN. SHE'S EASILY INFLUENCED BY EMOTIONS

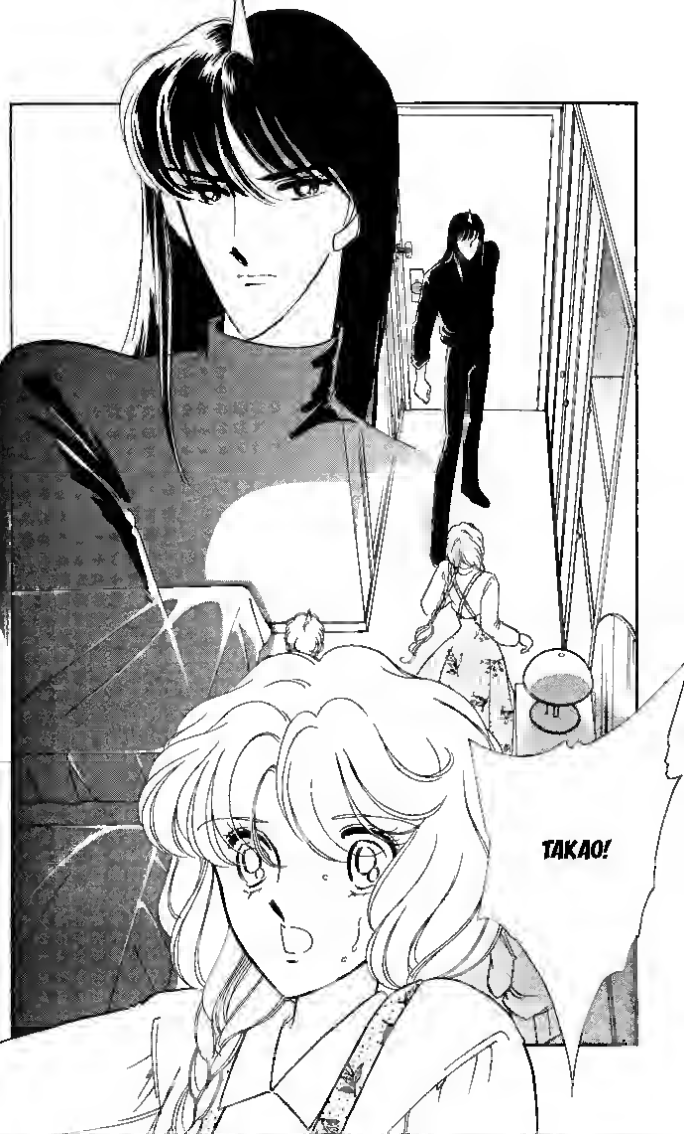
I'M SO SORRY I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BETRAYING MANKIND...
BUT I CAN'T JUST WATCH A CHILD BE HURT...
指定券
RESERVATION TICKETS
THERE SHOULD BE ONI WATCHING US SOMEWHERE... I'M JUST GOING TO GIVE HER TO THEM.
TAKAO WOULD NEVER HAVE SENT THIS LITTLE GIRL ALL BY HERSELF
?!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

?!
THANKS FOR BRINGING MAMI BACK LADY SOKO
SMILE
YOU GUYS— ARE THE SAME AS HER?
TOUCH MY HEAD
SMILE

I GUESS I CAN'T JUST LEAVE AN UNCONSCIOUS CHILD HERE
YUP! OVER THERE!
THEY'RE HERE?
OKAY, NOW RETRACT IT!
LADY SOKO, WE'LL TAKE YOU TO MAMI'S PARENTS
MAMIKO!

THANK YOU FOR COMING HOME, LADY SOKO.
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A HOTEL AT THE TOKYO STATION
I DIDN'T COME FOR ME. I'M DONE HERE NOW
BYE.

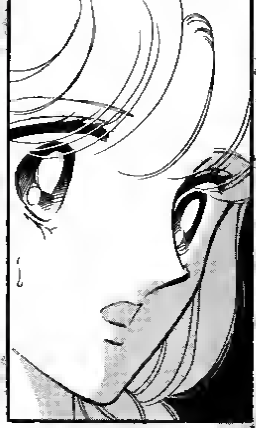
SLAM
SO SOON?
WON'T YOU TALK WITH ME A LITTLE?
CREAK
CHINK

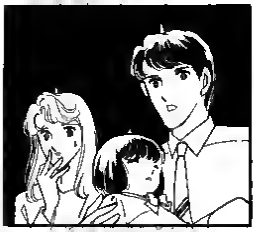

TAKAO!

YOU'RE A COWARD, TAKAO!
USING CHILDREN IS JUST WRONG!
I HAVE NOTHING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT!
EVEN IF IT'S COWARDLY OR WRONG,
I'D DO ANYTHING TO WIN YOU BACK
I KNOW.
I HAVE THE POWER TO FACE YOU! GET OUT!
WHAT YOU DID DIDN'T WIN ME BACK!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE!

SLIP
SOKO,
I BEG OF YOU, RETURN TO THE KIMON AS SOURYU.

IF I DISGUST YOU, I WON'T COME BEFORE YOU AGAIN.
IF YOU ASK ME TO DIE I'LL CUT OFF MY HEAD
TAKA. O...?!
IF YOU WOULD BE SOURYU, I'D DO ANYTHING YOU ASKED IN EXCHANGE





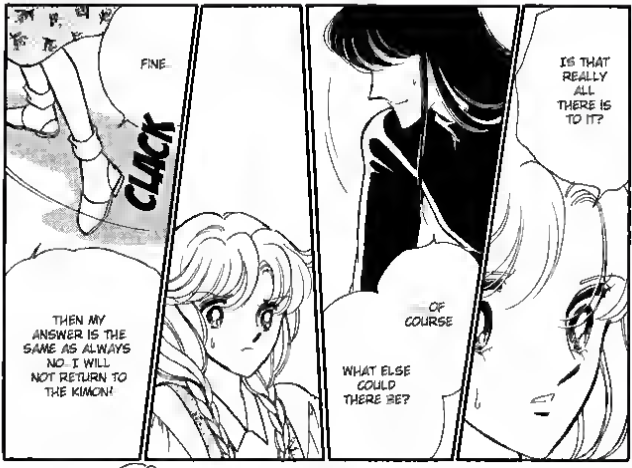
"IF YOU WOULD BE SOURYU, I'D DO ANYTHING YOU ASKED IN EXCHANGE."

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW!
WHY WOULD YOU GO SO FAR TO MAKE ME SOURYU?!
WHY...?
WHY, TAKAO?!
THERE ARE OTHER CANDIDATES LIKE HIKO IN THE KIMON...
IF SHE WERE SOURYU, EVERYTHING WOULD'VE GONE FINE FOR YOU...
SO, WHY ME?!

WHY DO I WANT SOKO TO BE SOURYU ...?
TAKIO?
SOKO.
I...

?!
, TAKAO?

?!
YOU'RE CLONED FROM THE LAST QUEEN OF THE KIMON, RAGO
IT'S A MATTER OF COURSE THAT YOU BECOME THE SOURYU. I'VE SAID THAT ALL ALONG
TAKAO?!


FINE.
CLICK
THEN MY ANSWER IS THE SAME AS ALWAYS NO. I WILL NOT RETURN TO THE KIMON!
OF COURSE
WHAT ELSE COULD THERE BE?
IS THAT REALLY ALL THERE IS TO IT?

HUMANS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES IN THIS WORLD!
OUR FAMILY HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE
TAKAO!
WHY DO YOU ONLY LOOK AT THINGS FROM A HUMAN'S POINT OF VIEW?!
SOKO!

MOVE! I'M GOING HOME, TAKAO!
SOKO, THINK OF YOUR FELLOW ONI!
DON'T GO BACK TO THE HUMANS!
I...
I LOVE AKIRA!
GRAB
JUMP
AHH!

SOKO
KNOCK

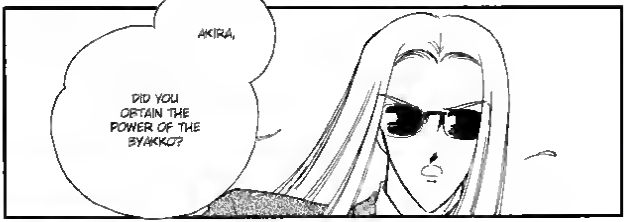
TAKE YOU TO THE REFUGE OF THE FAMILY OF THE EAST, THE SACRED GROUND
I WILL....

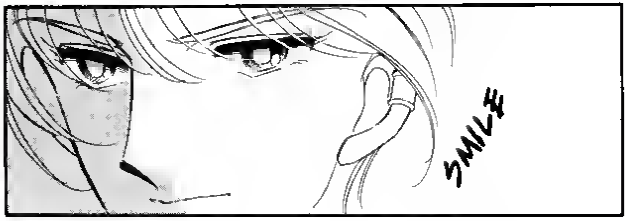
NO MATTER WHAT I SEE, IT WON'T CHANGE MY ANSWER...
WHEN YOU GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER THEN, I WON'T SAY A WORD
YES I'D LIKE YOU TO SEE IT AND RECONSIDER ONCE MORE
YOU'LL SHOW ME THE SACRED GROUND?
YOU'LL TAKE ME THERE?
...BUT YOU WANT TO SEE THE SACRED GROUND, RIGHT?
CLICK
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF I TOOK YOU THERE RIGHT AWAY?
GULP

THE SACRED GOUND... THE FAMILY OF THE BAST'S REFUGE, THAT WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR FOR SO LONG!
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHERE IT IS!
EVEN IF AKIRA ISN'T WITH ME, I CAN TELL HIM AFTERWARDS...
I'LL GO!
TAKE ME THERE TAKAO!

駅 レンタカー
八王子南口
JUST WHERE DID SOKO GO!?
AKIRA, LET'S GO BACK TO THE OFFICE FOR NOW
KAI?!
IF THAT'S SOKO'S PLAN SHE'LL HEAD THERE ON HER OWN
IF TAKAO SNATCHED HER, WE CAN START FRESH LATER.
We can't just start a disturbance at Tokyo Station right?
YOUR NEW POWERS AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE.
YOU CAN CRUSH THE KIMON AND TAKE SOKO BACK EASILY.
C'MON, THE OTHERS HAVE EVEN ARRIVED
.....
TCH!

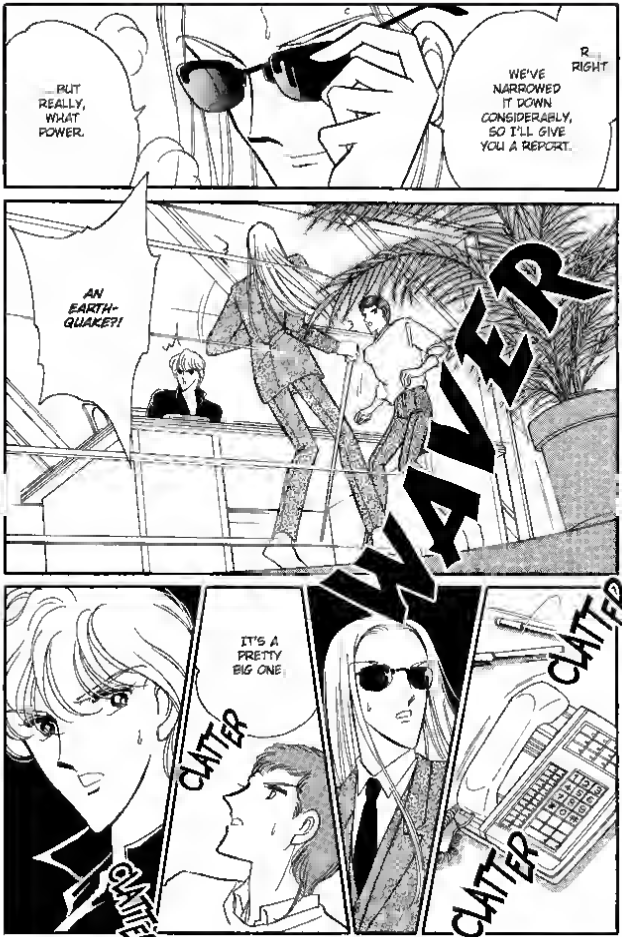
...REALLY,
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THE SOURYU RUNS OFF, IT NEVER ENDS.
CLICK CLICK
I'M NOT SURPRISED OR EVEN ANGRY.
CLICK CLICK
SO WOULD YOU MIND TAKING A SEAT... UNCLE, INSTEAD OF PACING AROUND LIKE A BEAR?
WE'VE RETURNED TO SETTLE THE LAST FEW THINGS.
AS FOR ME, I'M JUST TIRED OF IT.


AKIRA,
DID YOU OBTAIN THE POWER OF THE BYAKKO?


SMILE

FLARE
FLARE

AHH...!!
SFX: FWOOM
IF YOU WERE AN ONI, UNCLE,
YOU'D BE SCATTERED WITHOUT A TRACE.
BZZZT
BZZZT
BZZZT
—WHICH MEANS THAT ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FINDING THE SACRED GROUND.
WHAT'S THE STATUS HERE?

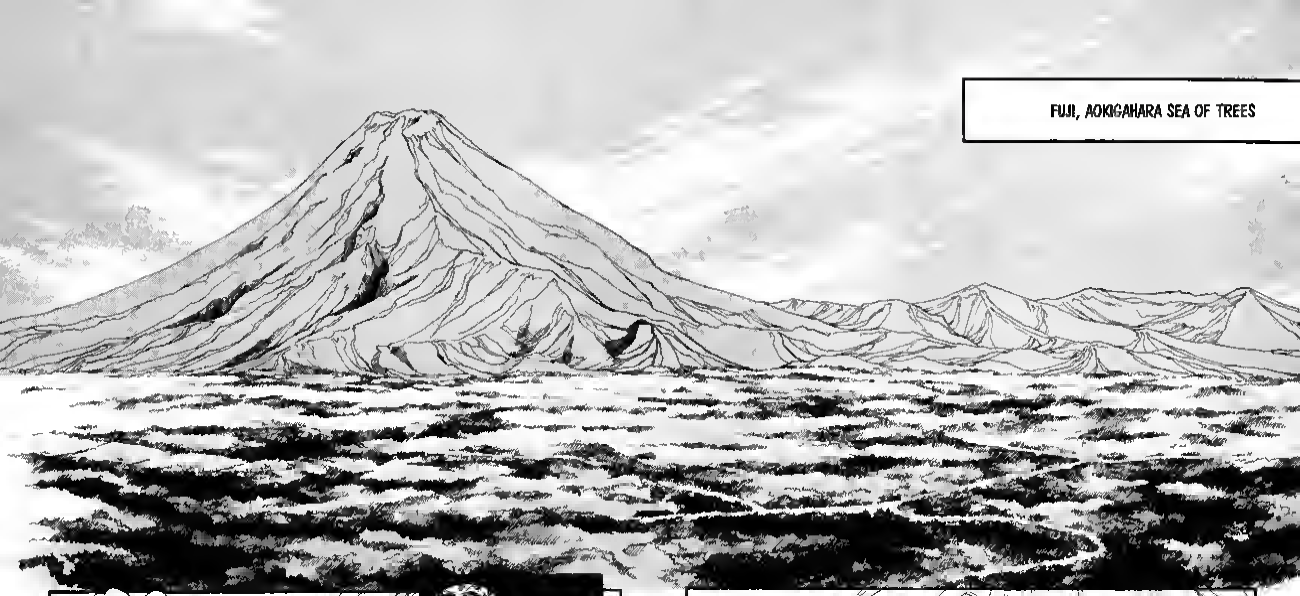

R... RIGHT
WE'VE NARROWED IT DOWN CONSIDERABLY, SO I'LL GIVE YOU A REPORT.
...BUT REALLY, WHAT POWER.
AN EARTH-QUAKE?!
WAVER
IT'S A PRETTY BIG ONE.
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER

SILENCE
I just can't stand the earth-shaking
I'm not afraid of thunder or fire or any old man but
LOOKS LIKE IT'S DYING DOWN
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT WHERE YOU GUYS WERE IN KANSAI,
BUT HERE ON THE EAST SIDE OF JAPAN, AND THE EASTERN SEA, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL EARTH-QUAKES.
WHICH REMINDS ME I HEARD THAT THE THING THAT STOPPED HIKO'S BULLET TRAIN WAS AN EARTHQUAKE.
THE SEARCH FOR THE KIMON SACRED GROUND HAS BEEN COMPLETED

GOOD WORK MASAKI
REPORT
OF THE 23 POSSIBLE SACRED GROUND SITES, ELEVEN HAVE ALREADY BEEN FILLED WITH BUILDINGS OR FIELDS AND FOUR WERE TURNED INTO GOLF COURSES
MAKING THEM UNACCEPTABLE TO BECOME A REFUGE
FIVE OF THE LOCATIONS WERE OVERTAKEN BY NATURE
YES SIR.
WE FIGURED THAT WAS PROBABLY DUE TO THEM LOSING THEIR POWER AS A REFUGE

OF THE REMAINING THREE SITES, WE'VE CONFIRMED THAT TWO OF THEM...
WERE MINI-REFUGES USED BY ONI AS PLACES OF HEALING...
...AND THE FINAL SITE?
WE'VE SENT FIVE GROUPS TO INVESTIGATE,
BUT NOT ONE HAS RETURNED.
YES. IT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE MATCH...
THEN...!
IT'S IN THE HOKUROKU AREA OF MT. FUJI, NEAR THE AOKIGAHARA FOREST
WHERE IS IT?!

IN MT. FUJI'S "SEA OF TREES"!


FUJI, AOKIGAHARA SEA OF TREES

THE MOUNTAIN OF FIRE WAS FUJI?!
THE SAIONJI ARCHIVE SAID THAT THE KIMON CAPITAL WAS AT THE BASE OF A MOUNTAIN OF FIRE

THAT'S RIGHT
AT THE LOCATION OF THE ANCIENT ONI CAPITAL
LONG AGO, THIS WAS THE CENTER OF JAPAN
THE SACRED GROUND IS IN THE SEA OF TREES?!

LET'S WALK FROM HERE.
YES, WE CALL IT "FUJI".*
Y.. YEAH
I CAN SENSE THE AIR FLOWING FROM THE SACRED GROUND
..LOST?
YOU'RE TALKING LIKE SOME HUMAN WITH DULL SENSES.
YOU DON'T GET LOST?
I HEARD THAT YOU CAN LOSE YOUR WAY IN THE SEA OF TREES.

*FUJI IS NORMALLY WRITTEN WITH KANJI MEANING "WEALTHY SAMURAI", BUT THE ONI WRITE IT AS "EVIL DEATH"

THIS IS THE ENTRANCE.
IT'S A LAVA TUNNEL CREATED IN AN EXPLOSION THAT OCCURED HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, AND IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET TO THE SACRED GROUND.
BE CAREFUL, IT'S SLIPPERY.
GULP
IT'S ALL OVER WHEN WE SEAL THIS OFF!
AHEAD IS THE CENTER CHAMBER.

...THIS IS THE SACRED GROUND?
I CAN SENSE ITS POWER,
BUT IT ISN'T AS GREAT AS THE REFUGES OF THE FAMILY OF THE NORTH OR WEST

HEAD DOWN AND SEE WHAT YOU FIND
?!
..DOWN ...?
THE WATER'S WARM, LIKE A HOT SPRING. WHAT'S THAT ABOUT...?
HUH...? THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER...
SHOCK

BABIES?!
YOU HEARD IT FROM THE CHILDREN DIDN'T YOU?
IF KIMON CHILDREN DON'T GROW TO BE THE SIZE OF A 2-3 YEAR OLD HUMAN HERE LIKE THIS, THEY'LL DIE

A WOMAN WHO IS GOING TO GIVE BIRTH COMES HERE AND WAITS FOR HER TIME TO COME
SINCE OUR CHILDREN CAN ONLY BE BORN HEALTHY HERE
HE
HE
HE
SOKO,
WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO WILL KILL EVERY LIFE HERE.
EVEN SO, DO YOU PLAN TO SIDE WITH THE HUMANS?

THAT'S NOT...
LADY SOKO
"IT WILL KILL EVERY LIFE HERE!"
I DON'T WANT TO KILL BABIES AND CHILDREN!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT!

Ao no Fuuin by: Chie Shinohara

"Blue Seal"

SCANNER: LADYNAGISA
TRANSLATOR: KALENDEL
EDITOR: LADYNAGISA
QC: KALENDEL

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AKIRA,
WE KNOW THAT THE ON SACRED GROUND IS IN AOKIGAHARA'S SEA OF TREES.
WE SHOULD JUST PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS AND BLOW THEM TO HELL WITH AN AIR RAID!
IDIOT,
DO YOU THINK THE WORLD WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT?

WILL YOU LET THEM KNOW THAT THERE'S A LAIR OF MAN-EATING ONI AT THE BASE OF MT. FUJI?
TELL THEM THAT IF WE SEAL IT OFF, THEY'LL LOSE THE ABILITY TO REPRODUCE— BUT THAT 50,000 OF THEM ARE ALREADY SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY?
FOR STARTERS, IT'D CAUSE A HUGE PANIC.
True enough.
YEAH...
DON'T WORRY, KAI
I'VE TAKEN ALL THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.
EH?

A BLOCKADE HAS BEEN PUT INTO PLACE AROUND THE SEA OF TREES BY THE LOCAL POLICE
THE FAMILY OF THE WEST HAS GATHERED UNDER THE PRETENSE OF DOING CONSTRUCTION WORK AND FOR ACCIDENTS.
ACCIDENT
WE'RE GOING TO ATTACK THE KIMON HEAD ON WITH JUST THE FAMILY OF THE WEST?
ATTACK?
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA, KAI.
CALL IT A "HUNT".
AKIRA?

WE AREN'T GAMBLING OUR LIVES IN A FIGHT AGAINST THE ONI
THIS IS A ONE-SIDED ONI HUNT. DON'T FORGET THAT!
YES SIR!
SOKO, I WAS BORN TO DESTROY THE ONI
YES SIR!
YEAH

THAT'S THE REASON I GAINED THIS POWER, SO PLEASE...
PLEASE, SOKO! DON'T STAND IN MY WAY!
WE'VE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED THE SEA OF TREES!

AKIRA, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE ENTRANCE IS?
NONE OF THE FIVE GROUPS WE SENT TO INVESTIGATE THE SEA OF TREES EVER CAME BACK.
MR. AKIRA, AS INSTRUCTED...
WE'VE POSITIONED OUR PEOPLE IN A CIRCLE 2 KILOMETERS FROM THE REFUGE ENTRANCE
THE AIR SMELLS DIFFERENT.
IT'S THICKER AND MORE CLEAR OVER THERE SO IT'S EASY TO TELL.
HM. MUST BE ANOTHER OF THE BYAKKO'S POWERS
SHAKE
!!
ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE?!

DON'T MAKE SUCH A FUSS IT WASN'T A BIG ONE.
BUT THERE HAVE REALLY BEEN A LOT OF EARTH-QUAKES LATELY.
HEY, YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT WHERE YOU WALK.
THERE MIGHT BE MOSS AND HOLES COVERED UP, SO BE CAREFUL...

SEALING OFF THE SACRED GROUND WILL KILL ALL THE BABIES...?
THAT... THAT WASN'T WHAT I WANTED...
BUT IT'S THE TRUTH...
IF YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT HUMAN KIDS, LADY SOKO, WHY ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ONI CHILDREN?

I... I'M NOT!
I...
I DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYONE
I WANT TO BECOME HUMAN SO I DON'T HAVE TO KILL
SOKO SOME WOMEN HAVE GATHERED HERE TO HAVE THEIR CHILDREN
WAIT, TAKAO I—
COME MEET THEM
EVERYONE'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO RETURN TO US
LADY SOKO?!
HAS LADY SOKO RETURNED?!

LADY SOKO, PLEASE LET ME TAKE YOUR HAND
GRANT ME A GOOD CHILD
I'M SO GLAD! THE SOURYU IS GOING TO BE HERE WHEN MY BABY IS BORN
EVERYONE WAS WORRIED, WITH THE SOURYU GONE
YOUR NORMAL LIVES?! WHERE YOU EAT HUMANS?!
AND GO BACK TO LIVING OUR NORMAL, PEACEFUL LIVES
WE PRAYED THAT YOU'D RETURN, SO THAT WE COULD GIVE BIRTH WITHOUT WORRYING

YES.
HUMANS EAT COWS AND FISH, DON'T THEY?
IF THEY DIDN'T THEY'D DIE.
WE'RE THE SAME.
IF WE DON'T EAT, WE DIE. SO WE EAT HUMANS
MAMIKO
TAKAO. WAIT. THAT'S ENOUGH.
I... DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYTHING MORE.
SOKO,
THERE'S ONE MORE THING I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU
I KNOW THE REASON...
I KNOW... BUT...

SPLASH
KNOW
THIS
PLACE

WELCOME BACK, SOURYU
THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE BORN.
I ALWAYS LOOKED OVER YOU AS YOU SLOWLY GREW UP HERE FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS
HSSS!
DEMON MASK!!

YES
THAT'S THE BLUE DEMON MASK WHO PROTECTS THIS PLACE OF THE EXISTING DEMON MASKS, THIS ONE HAS LIVED THE LONGEST.
THIS IS WHERE... I WAS BORN?
THE LONGEST...
YOU WATCHED OVER ME... FOR A THOUSAND YEARS?
YES YOU GREW UP IN THE ENERGY OF THE SACRED GROUND FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS
LADY SOKO, COME BACK TO US!
COME BACK AND PROTECT THE SACRED GROUND!
DON'T KILL EVERYONE!

ENOUGH...! I DON'T WANT TO [illegible] MORE!
I WANT TO BECOME HUMAN! I LOVE AKIRA! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYMORE!
SOKO,
WOULD YOU STILL DENY THE KIMON OUR EXISTENCE?
I WANT TO LIVE WITH AKIRA FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!

JOLT
INTRUDERS!
DEMON MASK?!
AKIRA!!
THE GUARDS BY THE ENTRANCE ARE BEING DEVOURED ONE AFTER ANOTHER!
LORD TAKAO!
THE REFUGE ENTRANCE...
A BUNCH OF HUMANS ARE NEARING...
DEVOURED...?!
IS IT THE BYAKKO?!

SSSSST
ARE

SSSSH
RUSTLE
AMAZING
MR AKIRA
DON'T LET A SINGLE ONI GET PAST US!
IF YOU FIND ONE, GET ME!
IF YOU CAN'T, HAVE SEVERAL MEN CIRCLE IT AND CUT OFF ITS HEAD!
OH!
FWSH
SCATTER!!

BOOM
BLACK FLAMES?!
RUSTLE
TAKAO?!
DON'T LET THE FAMILY OF THE WEST GET NEAR THE REFUGE!!

AKIRA!
LADY SOKO!
SOKO!
AKIRA!
GET OVER HERE!
DON'T INTERFERE, ON!!
FLARE

MAMIKO, STAY BACK...
LADY SOKO, DON'T GO!

AH!
SORO...
—PLEASE DON'T FIGHT ME.
I— THAT...
I DID THAT INSTINCTIVELY...

CLATTER
THE SOURYU!
DON'T INTERFERE!
SOKO, WATCH OUT!

AHHH!

SOKO!!
CRASH

MM...

TAKAO...! YOUR LEG...?!
UGH...
WHY..?
LORD TAKAO!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT FOR ME?
WHY—? LADY SOKO
YOU STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT?

WHY ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW?
WE FIGURED IT OUT, AND SO HAS THE BYAKKO
DON'T TALK ABOUT TRIVIAL THINGS
E ENOUGH
HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHAT...?
AND LORD TAKAO...
STOP...!!
AND LORD TAKAO LOVES YOU THAT MUCH!

ME...?
TAKAO LOVES...

YOU'RE SAYING HE LOVES ME?
HOW COULD THAT...
TAKAO YOU NEVER ONCE...

PROTECT THE REFUGE!
THAT STUFF DOESN'T MATTER
RIGHT
CRUSH THE ONI'S SACRED GROUND!
THAT'S RIGHT! DON'T LET THIS CHANCE PASS BY!
W... WAIT!

EVER SINCE BEFORE I KNEW ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE ONI
I HAVE TO THINK .
TAKAO WAS ...WAYS THERE WITH ME...
WAIT...
FWSH
AND EVEN DURING THE TIME I WAS UNDER HIS MIND
HE DIDN'T ACT LIKE HE LOVED ME AT ALL

AKIRA!
SOKO, LEAVE THE REST TO US GET BACK TO THE CARS!
I HAVE TO THINK...
WAIT, I'M CONFUSED...
GRAB
AKIRA...!
THERE'S NOTHING TO THINK ABOUT!
SOKO!

GENBU, PREPARE YOURSELF!
STOP IT!
TAKAO CAN'T EVEN MOVE!

TAKAO!!

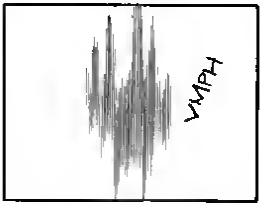
SLICE
HIS OWN LEG...?!

TAKAO...!
SOKO!
TAKAO... YOUR LEG...
I'M FINE!
EVERYONE, GET BACK INSIDE THE REFUGE!

WHISTLE
I'M SORRY!
SOKO!
MR. AKIRA, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE PLANNING ON BARRICADING THEMSELVES INSIDE THE REFUGE

I KNOW
THIS IS THEIR STRONGHOLD STRENGTHEN THE PERIMETER, BUT DON'T GET TOO CLOSE
I'LL FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE
YEAH
SLIDE
AKIRA, ARE YOU GOING TO USE YOUR SHADOW?
CATCH!

KAI,
I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.


VMPH

I GET IT. THE POWER OF THE BYAKKO MUST'VE POWERED THAT UP AS WELL
HIS SHADOW TALKED
YOU SURE ARE LEARNY

SPREAD THE WORD SO PEOPLE DON'T PANIC
DON'T WORRY THIS WON'T KILL ME
TAKAO LET ME GO OUT AGAIN
I'LL GET YOUR LEG AND COME BACK
IT'S MY FAULT THAT HAPPENED TO HIM BECAUSE HE WAS PROTECTING ME
BUT MY POWER CAN RESTORE YOU, RIGHT?
LIKE WITH MY ARM.
LEAVE IT BE.
IT WAS TOO CRUSHED FOR THAT, LADY SOKO
WE'RE HARD TO HURT, BUT WE AREN'T INVINCIBLE.

LEAVE ME ALONE WITH TAKAO
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK HIM
WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO CHAT FOR LONG...
I'M SORRY
YOUR LEG ISN'T SOMETHING I CAN JUST APOLOGIZE FOR, BUT— I AM SORRY

THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE
EVERY MEMBER OF THE KIMON HAS A DUTY TO PROTECT THE SOURYU
DUTY ?
IS THAT WHY HE SAVED ME?
THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO ASK HIM, BUT IT'S HARD TO GET IT OUT
YOU AREN'T BEING HONEST, TAKAO
WELL, I HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR THAT, THOUGH

AKIRA! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?!
A SHADOW?
CAN YOU USE YOUR POWERS AS A SHADOW NOW?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S MY DESTINY TO DESTROY THE KIMON.
GIVE UP YOUR POINTLESS RESISTANCE.

HUMANS THINK...
THAT THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES ON THIS PLANET.
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU CALL THAT, IF NOT ARROGANCE?
WAIT, AKIRA! THERE ARE CHILDREN HERE!
CHILDREN THAT EAT HUMANS
IF YOU CAN'T ADMIT THAT, SOKO THEN GET OUT OF MY WAY
IT LOOKS LIKE THE USUAL HUMAN ARROGANCE HAS TAINTED YOUR WAY OF THINKING
PYAKKO
WHAT?
TAKAO?

THE BALANCE THAT EXISTED DURING THE ERA WHEN WE PREYED ON HUMANS AND LIMITED THEIR POPULATION IS THE NATURAL ECOSYSTEM OF THIS WORLD
WHY WON'T YOU REALIZE THAT THAT'S UNNATURAL?
HUMANS
CONTINUE TO GOUGE THE GROUND MUDDY THE WATER, AND POLLUTE THE AIR
IF THERE ARE NO WOLVES ON A MOUNTAIN, THE DEER THERE WILL MULTIPLY TOO MUCH, CONSUME THE PLANTS AND KILL OFF THE AREA
WHAT HUMANS ARE DOING NOW IS THE SAME THING
YES
NATURAL ECOSYSTEM?!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT HUMANS SHOULD JUST ACCEPT BEING EATEN BY ONI?!

TRUE, YOU AREN'T YOU'RE EVEN WORSE.
ENOUGH! WE AREN'T DEER!
HUMANS WILL DESTROY ALL OF NATURE NOT JUST A MOUNTAIN.
THAT...
THAT MIGHT BE TRUE BUT...
TAKAO, I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU DO THINGS

IF THE RESTORATION OF THE KIMON IS SO IMPORTANT, THEN WHY DID YOU TREAT ME LIKE THAT—?!
I KNOW, SOMEWHERE INSIDE MY HEAD, THAT IT'D BE BETTER IF HE DIDN'T TELL ME.
BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT NO MATTER WHAT HE TELLS ME, MY FEELINGS FOR AKIRA WON'T CHANGE.
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING BUT HATE YOU FOR IT!
...SO WHY?
YOU WANT TO KNOW, NO MATTER WHAT...?
YES.
REALLY, IT NEVER STOPS...

HIKO WENT TO ASO...
SHE'LL GET THE ANSWER AND COME BACK HERE...
!!
.....
ASK HIKO...
EH?

HIKO HAS THE ANSWER...?
...YOU SAYING THERE'S SOMETHING IN ASO, AT THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S REFUGE?!

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ASO, KYUSHU
HERB GARDEN
I BET THE PLACE WITH THE STRONGEST POWER IS THE CRATER.
HE JUST TOLD ME ASO BUT ASO'S A BIG PLACE.
DID YOU SAY THE CRATER?!
PROHIBITED?
MOUNTAIN CLIMBING IS PROHIBITED NOW, SO YOU CAN'T GET CLOSE TO IT
YEAH. THERE WAS A LOT OF SMOKE RISING FROM IT. IT MIGHT ERUPT

I GET IT THIS PROBABLY WOULD WORRY THE HUMANS...
OVER THE SMELL OF SULFUR, I CAN SENSE THE RAGING FEVER IN THE EARTH.
SO IT'S IN HERE?
WELL THEN!

SPLASH
GASP
...BFT!
IT STINKS OF SULFUR,
AND IT'S REALLY HOT!!

?!
IS THIS THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S REFUGE ...?
LOOK AT ALL THE WATER VAPOR.
Splish
ARE YOU HIKO?

YES. I AM THE RED DEMON MASK. I PROTECT THE REFUGE OF THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH.
ARE YOU KIKO?
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?!
DEMON MASK?!

FOLLOW ME.
IF YOU'RE KIKO I'LL GUIDE YOU TO THE HEART OF THE REFUGE.
THE HEART?!
YOU'LL LET ME IN EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW THE RED INCANTATION?!
I WAS TOLD TO ALLOW THE SUZAKU KIKO ENTRY IF SHE CAME.
TOLD? BY WHOM?
THE PERSON INSIDE.
INSIDE?!
SOMEONE'S AT THE HEART OF THIS REFUGE?!

GEEZ, EXACTLY HOW FAR ARE WE GOING?!
I CAN'T SEE VERY WELL IN THIS STEAM.
THE STEAM'S SO THICK
THE PERSON INSIDE ?
THUNK
AWW
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
IF YOU WISH TO ASK QUESTIONS ASK THE PERSON INSIDE.

EH...?!

THE REASON WHY TAKAO HID THAT HE LOVED ME...
THAT ANSWER IS AT THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S REFUGE?!
WAIT.

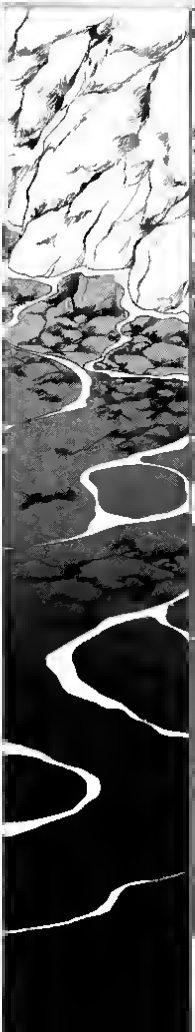
AKIRA
DON'T SIDESTEP THE ISSUE!
..ALTHOUGH I ALSO GOT DRAGGED INTO THAT CONVERSATION,
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO TALK ABOUT LOVE ISSUES
..OR TO DISCUSS ANYTHING, REALLY
I ONLY CAME HERE TO SEAL OFF YOUR SACRED GROUND--THAT'S ALL!

YOU REALLY ARE HOPELESS
DIDN'T YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I SAID?
WE'RE NOT HAVING THE ONI CONTROL OUR POPULATION, AND WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO SELF-DESTRUCT!
IF YOU MEAN THAT DEER STORY, I HEARD EVERY WORD
BUT HUMANS AREN'T DEER.
SEAL OFF THE SACRED GROUND, YOU SAY...
HOW DO YOU INTEND TO DO THAT?
A... AKIRA, WAIT...

RUMBLE
THIS'D BE IT.
RIGHT, THAT REMINDS ME
?

BOOM
BOOM
RUMBLE
THEY'VE GOT EXPLOSIVES TO DESTROY ALL THE LAVA TUNNELS THAT RUN UNDER THE SEA OF TREES
THE FAMILY OF THE WEST SHOULD BE RUSHING IN RIGHT ABOUT NOW
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, EVEN WITHOUT THE INCANTATION, WE CAN PENETRATE THE REFUGE IN AS MANY PLACES AS WE WANT
NOT JUST THE ENTRANCE
WE DON'T JUST FIGHT WITH BOWS AND ARROWS IN THIS DAY AND AGE
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
AN EXPLOSION?!
AKIRA! DID YOU BLOW OPEN THE ENTRANCE TO THE REFUGE?!

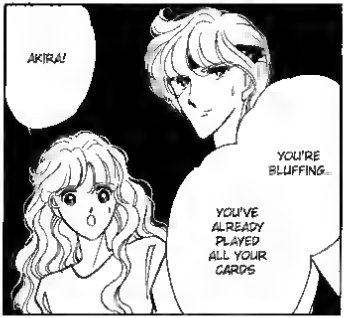
AKIRA, WAIT!
THERE ARE CHILDREN IN HERE! AND LOTS OF BABIES!
THAT AGAIN, SOKO?
DIDN'T YOU DECIDE TO TURN YOUR BACK ON THE KIMON?!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR VOW TO KILL YOUR SISTER?!
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN I RESOLVED TO DO THAT
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!!
BUT I REALLY CAN'T KILL BABIES I CAN'T SHAKE OFF THAT HAND THAT TOOK MINE AND LED ME HERE!



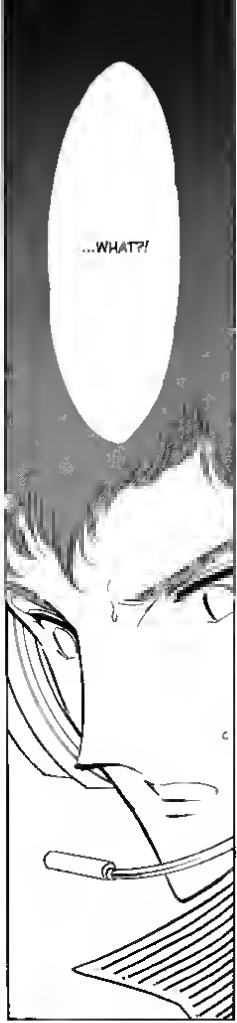
SMILE
GO AHEAD AND SEAL IT OFF
YOU HUMANS AREN'T GOING TO COME OUT OF IT SO WELL OFF, EITHER

WHAT?!

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
LOOKS LIKE A MESSAGE FROM TOKYO
ONCE THE SACRED GROUND IS OPEN, HE WON'T NEED THE SHADOW ANYMORE, AND WE'LL COME BACK TO IT—
—TAKE AKIRA'S BODY
EH?!
YEAH— GOT IT
UNCLE?!
—YEAH, IT'S ME!


AKIRA!
YOU'RE BLUFFING..
YOU'VE ALREADY PLAYED ALL YOUR CARDS

AKIRA, WAIT!
WE'VE POSTPONED SEALING OFF THE SACRED GROUND!


...WHAT?!

AKIRA, LISTEN!!
THE EARTH-QUAKES?! WHAT DO THEY MATTER NOW...
WE JUST GOT WORD FROM OUR UNCLE. WE FOUND OUT WHAT'S CAUSING THE EARTHQUAKES THAT'VE BEEN HAPPENING AROUND HERE!
WHAT'S GOING ON, KAI?
THE EARTHQUAKES ARE FROM VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IN FUJI.
THEY SAID IT'S REALLY SERIOUS FUJI COULD ERUPT ANY TIME

AND THE EPICENTER OF THE VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IS DIRECTLY BELOW US!
SNIFF
THAT'S RIGHT.
TAKAO?!
IT'S THANKS TO THE ENORMOUS VOLCANIC ENERGY HERE THAT WE'RE ABLE...
TO RESURRECT CLONES EVERY THOUSAND YEARS AND RAISE CHILDREN
CONVERSELY, IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE CONSUMING THIS ENERGY THAT FUJI LIES DORMANT.

KANTO, TOKAI... DEPENDING ON HOW IT PLAYS OUT, THE DESTRUCTION MAY EVEN REACH KOSHINETSU.
LET'S TRY HALTING THAT CONSUMPTION NOW.
FUJI WILL ERUPT!...

IF YOU THINK I'M LYING, HOW ABOUT YOU GO AHEAD AND SEAL IT OFF?
IF WE JUST ASSUME HE'S LYING AND TAKE ACTION
THERE WILL BE TOO MANY VICTIMS

IF THAT'S THE CASE,
I CAN AT LEAST GET RID OF YOU!

YOUR NEW KIMON STILL DOESN'T HAVE ANY SORT OF ORGANIZATION.
TAKAO'S THE ONLY ONE HOLDING IT TOGETHER WITH YOU DEAD, ALL THAT'S LEFT IS CHAOS
AKIRA, WAIT...!
FWIP
AH!
AKIRA, YOU'RE BACK?
FWIP

FLASH
FLARE
NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT—?
SOKO!
AKIRA, PLEASE WAIT!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF! YOU KNOW WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT THE KIMON!

IS THAT TRUE...?
IS IT TRUE THAT WE CAN'T LIVE TOGETHER?
IS THERE REALLY... NO WAY FOR TO COEXIST?!

SHINK
DASH
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO COEXIST!
I SAID IT BEFORE! HUMANS HAVE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING ONI FOOD!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT CAN BE DONE IF WE'RE ALLOWED TO DEVOUR A SMALL NUMBER OF HUMANS.
WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF WIPING OUT HUMANITY.

AKIRA!
TAKAO!

IS IT REALLY IMPOSSIBLE?!
FROM THE START, TAKAO AND AKIRA HAVE ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT FIGHTING
BUT IF EVERYONE PUT THEIR MINDS TO IT, THERE MIGHT BE SOME WAY!

THAT'S IT! SOME WAY...!!
TACKLE
GRAB
KA!
SOKO! STAY OUT OF IT!
AH!
TAKAO! AKIRA!

NO WAIT...
EVERYONE CAN THINK ABOUT IT! WE NEED AKIRA AND TAKAO!
STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU...
AKIRA AND TAKAO ARE EQUALLY POWERFUL,
BUT TAKAO'S SLOWED DOWN BY THE LOSS OF HIS LEG.
AIM FOR HIS THROAT! HE'S GATHERING ENERGY!
YANK
AKIRA, THAT'S IT!
YOU CAN LEAVE IT TO AKIRA

GRAB
TRROB
UH...!
GRAB

I'LL GET RID OF YOU, TAKAO
I ENTRUST THE ENTIRE KIMON TO YOU!!
SOKO, THE REST IS UP TO YOU!

AHHH!
AKIRA!
TAKAO!

SSS
TS

RUSTLE

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I ENTRUST THE ENTIRE KIMON TO YOU!!!
SOKO,
TAKAO...?!

Ao no Fuuin by: Chie Shinohara

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STORM IN HEAVEN
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